

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A multi-stage surge protector/isolation barrier is provided for connection between a telephony device and a telephone network. The multi-stage surge protector/isolation barrier includes a first stage and a second stage. The first stage is operative to limit or clamp incoming voltage to a pre-defined level. In one form, the voltage limiting or clamping state includes a spark gap and over-voltage/over-current protector. The second stage is operative to limit or dissipate transients developed by the first stage. In one form, the transient limiting or dissipating stage includes transient filter circuitry. The transient filter circuitry may be implemented as LC filter circuitry. The subject multi-stage surge protector/isolation barrier helps prevent damage to the telephony device caused by voltage surges in the telephone network.